

Expanding Adventures with Max and Zara

Learning objective: To identify and construct expanded noun phrases to add detail and precision to writing.

Read the sentences carefully. Choose the correct answer or write your response in the space provided. Remember, an expanded noun phrase adds extra detail to a noun using adjectives or prepositional phrases.

Answer Key: 1.C*, 2.B*, 3.A*, 4.True, 5.False, 6.The glistening, golden crown, 7.A bright, cheerful parrot in the rainforest, 8.Accept any sentence containing a noun modified by at least two adjectives and a prepositional phrase, 9.They provide more imagery and help the reader visualise the scene, 10.Because 'happy' is an adjective, not a noun phrase.

Word bank: adjective · noun · prepositional phrase · vivid · detail · description · modifier

1. 1. Max is looking at a noun phrase. Which one is an expanded noun phrase? A) The monkey. B) Max climbed. C) The clever, energetic monkey in the tree.* D) Climbing. (1 mark)

2. 2. Zara is painting a portrait. Which set of words best expands the noun 'canvas'? A) Painted. B) The large, rectangular canvas with colourful patterns.* C) Canvas painting. D) The big. (1 mark)

3. 3. Identify the prepositional phrase in this sentence: 'The curious owl sat on the high, wooden branch.' A) on the high, wooden branch.* B) The curious owl. C) sat on. D) high, wooden branch. (1 mark)

4. 4. True or False: An expanded noun phrase must always include at least one adjective. (1 mark)

5. 5. True or False: 'The hungry, stripey' is a complete expanded noun phrase. (1 mark)

6. 6. Expand this noun phrase: 'The crown'. Write your version below. (1 mark)

7. 7. Add a prepositional phrase to this expanded noun phrase: 'A bright, cheerful parrot'. (1 mark)

8. 8. Write one original sentence about Leo the lion using an expanded noun phrase that includes two adjectives and a prepositional phrase. (1 mark)

9. 9. Explain why writers use expanded noun phrases instead of just using simple nouns. Justify your answer. (1 mark)

10. 10. Max says 'happy' is an expanded noun phrase. Is he correct? Explain why or why not. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a scene featuring Nova the owl sitting on a magical, ancient branch. Label your drawing using at least two expanded noun phrases (e.g., 'The wise, feathered owl' or 'The glowing, silver moon in the dark sky').



Extension challenge: Imagine you are writing a story about a hidden treasure. Write a paragraph describing the treasure chest using at least three different expanded noun phrases. Compare and contrast how your description would change if you removed all the adjectives. Why is the detail important for the reader's imagination?